



The Blurb



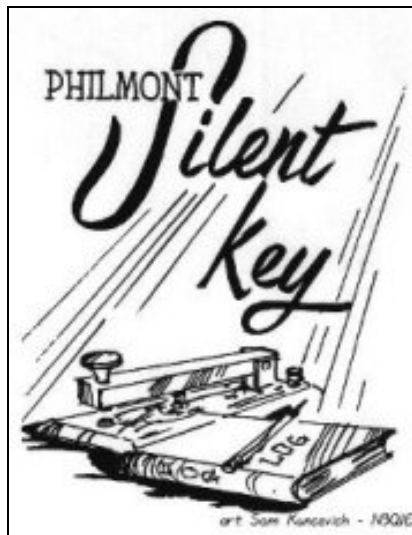
Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

64 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2013

Volume 64 Number 7

www.phil-mont.org

July 2013



Larry W3UY and Dick W3RM at Old Timer's night, November 2012

**Larry Clifford W3UY (SK), - Long Time PMRC Member
And Club Past President**

Get that Flag out for Independence Day!

Weather on Field Day was Nearly Perfect

Phil-Mont is *not* a contesting club and that's good!

See the letter sent to Ed on page 7

Ham Camp coming in August courtesy of the Uebelhoers *see page 8*

*Don KB3KOJ reminds us of the excellent video “**Every Single Minute**” available at the club website: www.phil-mont.org If you haven't seen it check it out!*

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) KB3MIV(14) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) K3GBA(13) W3AOK(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: ND3B Rick Devirgiliis nd3b@arrl.net
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...**73 Bob, KB2ERL**

Greetings Phil-Monters. Well another successful and fun field day event is in the record books. If you didn't make it shame on you, you missed another banner event. The weather was great, the food was good, the camaraderie was great and the contacts weren't bad either. Carmen KE3QB, Ralfy K3FXR, and myself did pretty well on 75-80 meters with almost 300 Q's. The 40 meter team did well as did all the others and everyone had fun. We did miss our satellite and digital gurus Al W3STW and Barry K3EUI. We did get a short visit from Al on Saturday and we were glad to see him; Barry was recovering from some minor surgery and was not able to make it. We wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see both you guys back in full force at next years event. The Sunday morning nets were handled by Ed and Sal right there at the field day site. I would like to thank our in house videographer and channel 3 camera man our own Chris Brady N3CB for filming the event and getting it on the air giving us some bonus points. It was exciting as we were eating dinner gathered around the 6 inch digital TV to see our guys on the news at field day. I want to thank Bob Freer W3YLT for stopping by to give us the political bonus points. Also thank you Andrew KC2PMW for handling the logging logistics and providing our WIFI connection for the weekend. And last but not least our own WU3I Steve for handling the culinary concerns of the group; well done Steve, do it again next year! So if you didn't make it this year be sure to put it on your

calendar for next June and come on out and join our fun at our party.

Moving right along we are now in our summer hiatus with no general meeting during July and August, when we come back in September it will be time to make final plans for the MS150 so as we mentioned before it's a great event for a good cause and if you get your form in time you get to stay free overnight in Ocean City so go to the club web site and download the MS 150 form and get it back early. I am working on securing a vendor for club hats, shirts and jackets. Hopefully I will have all the info and pricing by the September meeting so we can move forward with an order.

And lastly keep in mind the Phil-Mont Ham Camp coming up in August hosted by Fred KA3IRJ and Penny at their beautiful Sunbury Pa farm. It's another event where a good time is to be had by all who come but they need a head count so get on the Sunday morning net and let Fred know that your're coming.

Well that's all the news that's fit to print so till next month have fun, stay cool, and get on the air!

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

JULY BIRTHDAYS

02 Ted Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL WA3KLR)

10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH
12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)

23 Art Weiner - WX3PHI
25 Jinny Haring - W3IIN
26 Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)
27 Robert Hill - KB3HNB

29 Jim Larkin - KA2FFP
31 Steve Hoch - WU3I

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

- 80 Full paid members
- 10 Family members
- 2 Youth members
- 1 Honorary member
- 3 Pending members



*The Thursday evening session is on the
25th this month.*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

John KB3SJS is this year's band coordinator and has all band captain slots filled. His XYL, Keiko KB3SJT, has taken over as membership chairperson and is catching up on certificates and badges for new members.

Bill, W3AOK reports that the repeater is in good shape aside from getting a new 440 crystal and will see to the air conditioning with warm weather approaching.

Fred, KA3IRJ announced that he and XYL Penney will host a "Ham Camp" at their home in Sunbury PA in August. (Informational flyer is in this Blur.)

Bob KB2ERL will investigate a source for having club hats and jackets made.

Business concluded at 20:30 hours and Ed KB3IV along with Andrew gave a presentation on programming the popular new Chinese HTs.

de Rick, ND3B

These radio amateurs have applied for PMRC membership

Leander Adams Jr "Lee" KB3YFG
7629 Williams Ave, Phila, PA 19150
DOB 3/22/68
Phone: H 267 248 0482 W 215 208 8889
Lic Class: Technician Exp 3/9/22
Occ: Facility Mgr.
ARRL Member
leanderadams@hotmail.com

Norman Dyner "Norm" W3RZY
22405 Ann's Choice Way
Warminster, PA 18974
DOB 10/17/31
Phone: H 215 675 3957 W 267 251 1920
Lic Class: Advanced Exp 6/18/16
ARRL Member
normandyner@verizon.net

Reuven Z Gevanyahu KB3EHW
348 Trevor Lane
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
DOB 3/11/82
Phone: H 61066801907
Lic Class: Extra Exp 10/19/19
Software Engineer

From the Secretary...

PMRC General Meeting 6/12/2013

The meeting was moved from the auditorium to the main building. President Bob, KB2ERL opened the meeting at 19:30 hours and asked for reports and Field Day plan info, emphasizing the fun aspect and not contesting. Steve WU3I reminded everyone that he needs to know who will be having meals so he can plan for them. He also said he will have some limited spare equipment such as antennas and feedline.

Andrew, KC2PMW will once again handle logging memory sticks and computer related issues as well as the GOTA station. Jack Coupe will also provide his internet hot spot equipment again. He's also looking into having VE tests sessions at Field Day. Ed KB3IV reports that echolink was down and the backup worked properly. He says the nets are in good order and thanked Fred, KA3IRJ for acting as 75M net control so often.

Jim reports that the Saturday VE session yielded 1 upgrade to general, one candidate went from no license to extra class, 3 new technicians and one unsuccessful attempt.

Building a Consensus

de Fred KA3IRJ

From high atop Areffe Knob here in the rural hinterlands of Sunbury PA, faint wisps of rosin smoke rise into the cool night time air and bespeak the birth of yet another project from the now infamous Skunk Werks of KA3IRJ. Here, comfortably ensconced in the warmth of my subterranean lair, I hatch my dark plan with unbridled glee and the meticulous care of a trained assassin. I labor, bathed in the soft glow of vacuum tubes and lulled into reverie by the voices on the radio, determined to thwart the evils wrought by uncaring electrical utilities, arbitrary acts of Invisible Beings, and mindless generators run amok... Our furry feline quadruped strolls languidly into my realm and yawns, expressing his general disdain for anything that interrupts his main area of interest, which of course is sleeping. He jumps up on my bench, knocks off a few tools, runs his tail under my nose, and then, having demonstrated his displeasure with my efforts, moves on to other more profitable pursuits. Undaunted by the Cat's less than subtle apathy, I return to the construction of the latest project.

Yes! Project building, as was my youthful habit has returned, no doubt a sub conscious attempt to recapture my childhood. Typically when a middle aged man decides to recapture his youth the result is less than inspiring, and these ill-considered adventures often result in serious orthopedic injury, substance abuse issues, or divorce. However building electronics projects is a safe and fun exception to this rule and generally benefits all those involved. As Hams I think we are duty bound to build and experiment, for these pursuits are both the basis of, and the future for our hobby. So, with that noble goal in mind, and with inspiration gained from those far more skilled who have preceded me, I decided to get up off my big, fat, spotty behind and actually build something.

But these things take time, and many of us have a shortage of that precious resource. I've heard all the excuses, and successfully employed many of them myself, but I was determined to find a way! We

knew we would be really busy with outside chores when we moved to a farm here in Sunbury from our suburban New Jersey home last year, so we decided to make more time by leaving our television behind. Yes, unthinkable as it may be for some, our humble domicile is bereft of the big unblinking eye. How will I ever survive without seeing that rerun of 'Law and Order' for the fourth time? (sic)

We listen to the radio for news, and read the (rather good) local paper as well, so we don't miss it much. However the most profound effect of shunning that mind numbing opiate of the proletariat is that even with all the farming activities going on, we still have a lot more time for other more productive and fun pursuits. Penny is happily gardening and doing her craft projects again, and I am once again building stuff.

As a result of that habit and my numerous trips to our wonderful local electronics parts store (Moyer Electronics in Sunbury) it was inevitable that I cross paths with a member of the Central Susquehanna Technical Users Group, an energetic cadre of geeks up here that meets monthly for no other stated purpose than to yak about things technical and to have "Show and Tell" sessions. My friend Joe (WA3UVP) was my ticket in and he is also the group's founder and unofficial leader. We meet monthly courtesy of the Baptists up this way who kindly provide us a meeting place gratis. Mostly comprised of hams, membership is open to all interested parties and a lot of members are active "makers" who enjoy building fun and useful projects. Having an interested audience for one's projects makes the experience even more enjoyable.

Ever since Bob (W3NE) showed me the six meter hand held he built from scratch at Phil-Mont's "Show and Tell" night some years back I've had an itch to get back into building. I seriously doubt I'll ever have the skill to build anything so fine and intricate, however one does what one can. For my part I hope to build my own meager skills and perhaps even inspire others. Sometimes all we need is a little nudge to get going on these projects and I am grateful for the nudge my Dad and my Uncle Bob (W3DRA - SK) gave me as a kid.

In my youth my parents allowed me to take over the basement and I had a nice little workshop down there where I built everything from homebrew rockets and model aircraft to shortwave receivers. But the electronic stuff was always of most interest. My parents encouraged this area because it had less potential for catastrophe than having a wild-eyed kid experimenting with various formulations of solid rocket fuel underneath their kitchen. It also did not produce fumes that suggested Beelzebub himself had stopped by after having tacos for lunch. Yes, electronics experimentation was a tidy, fume free and mostly safe pursuit, and other than the occasional dimming of the lights, or a blown fuse, it had little effect on the other members of my family.

With our move last year to the hill top farm here in Sunbury, PA I now had access to a large, clean, dry basement, and thus quickly returned to that familiar sub-surface realm. A workshop took shape, and after performing all the electronics repairs that had piled up over the years (because I did not have time) I started to build new things. First some test jigs for work efforts, but then things just for fun. A 40 meter one tube CW transmitter, and then a homebrew Variac came into being, and I was once again hooked. Building stuff is just plain fun, and any idiot can do it – I am living proof!

Recently I saw an interesting project in QST, an overvoltage protection circuit, and I decided to build it. The project was of particular interest because I had some trouble with my rig last year at Field Day and this device would have probably saved me a lot of trouble. Photo 1 shows the testing of the first of three boards for the project. This circuit, designed by Mr. Jerry Paquette (WB8IOW) is not only an overvoltage protection system, but also provides a GFI outlet and a nifty color bar graph display showing voltage levels. The testing was accomplished with the aid of another homebrew project, the aforementioned Variac of my own design. Truth be told the Variac was half the reason I started on the overvoltage project in the first place. After all, if you have a new toy you want to play with it!

Readers who are ARRL members may recall this overvoltage protection project was featured in the April 2013 issue of QST and the photos here show

the construction, testing, and calibration of the first of several units I have built.

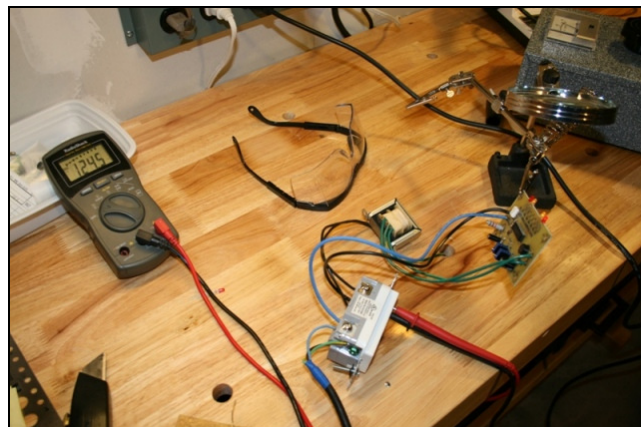


Photo 1

Once the prototype/testing phase was completed and the first board fully functional I began experimenting with various packaging options – strictly barnyard machine shop stuff.



To be continued in the August Blurb

The (Un)importance of contesting ...

Here is what Field Day and our hobby is all about. I have been a member of Phil-Mont since 1981 and was welcomed from day one. We take pride in being all inclusive to new, old and non Hams. Here is an example of why our club is held in high esteem throughout the Amateur community. - ED KB3IV

Ed,

Let me tell you what you and your club did - my nephew wasn't sure if he wanted to really "try the ham thing." After meeting you and the PMRC crew he asked me for a link and he is now reading the technician manual. He looked up the club website and is looking to become a PMRC member one day in the future.

Compare and contrast with my son - who climbed back in the car after my local field day with big crocodile tears saying field day wasn't any fun. If I knew it would have been that bad I would have not even wasted the time taking him. My club members were so focused on getting 2 more points they couldn't even take the time to welcome my son, a wide eyed 8 year old carrying a state of the art HT. This is a little guy who has sat on my lap for the past 8 months checking into the Sunday net saying hello and saying he was looking forward to field day. In fact one group asked me to move because his questions were interfering. Unbelievable. I quit the club and withdrew my membership on the spot.

Next year I will bring my family to your field day!! Thanks again for the hospitality showed to me by you and EVERY member of PMRC. If every club in the US was like PMRC I bet there would be over 1,000,000 hams!

Thanks,
Larry Packer
Harris RF Communications Division

For Sale:

Heathkit SB220 linear amplifier excellent condition low hours

\$650.00 contact Frank KB2AYS at 609-312-9392 (de Bob, ERL)

1) Yaesu 2900R/w like new in box manual etc.. 125.00

2) Asus netbook win 7 home 150.00

3) Motorola zoom, droid 4.1 200.00

4) LDG Autotuner at200pc 75.00

Contact Ted Katz N3OWM, 856-663-5962

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET

SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS

CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT WU3I@ARRL.NET

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

Ham Camp 2013

How Would You Like to Spend a Weekend in the Country and Use an 1100 ft MSL Antenna? If So Come on Up to Our Place for Ham Camp High Atop Areffe Knob.

What: Weekend Camp Out on Our Farm Outside Sunbury, PA

When: August 17-18, 2013 (Come Up Friday Night if You Want)

Who's Invited: Any Member of PMMRC & CSTUG in Good Standing w/Immediate Family

Where: 118 Magnolia Lane Sunbury, PA 17801

Talk In: Our Local Repeater @ 145.290 - No PL Needed

You are Invited to Share a Low-Key Weekend of Camping, Good Fellowship, and Fun with a Little Radio Thrown in for Good Measure. Surrounded by 100+ mile Views in Virtually Every Direction You Will be Amazed at the Difference a Little Elevation Makes. We Have 7 Acres of Lawn to Camp on, or Choose a Spot in the Christmas Tree Area or Woods. This is a Self Directed, Take Care of Your Own Self Type Event, So Be Prepared to Camp Out, Play Radio, Relax, and Have a Good Time. Come for an afternoon or the whole weekend.

RAIN OR SHINE

We Will Provide:

- An Un Improved Campsite, or RV Parking
- Water
- Sanitary Facilities
- Catered Lunch, and Dinner Saturday, and Breakfast Sunday Morning
- 110 VAC Power for Radios (Leave the AC Unit Behind Please)
- Wireless Internet Access

Please See my QRZ Page for Pictures/Coordinates <http://qrz.com/db/KA3IRJ>

What You Have to Do:

- **RSVP to fred@ksecorp.com (We need a Head Count for the Food)**
- **Show Up**

Pets Welcome, Bring a Frizbee and/or a Baseball Glove, And Don't Do Nuthin' Stupid.

Here are some FD pics. If you have any that you want to see here next month send them in!



July at Phil-Mont

4 Thur Independence Day

7 Sun K3XS NCS

14 Sun W3MHP NCS

21 Sun KB3IV NCS

28 Sun KB3SJS NCS

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

--... ..-- .. . -..--

First Class Mail

The Blurb
The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976